

ACT NO. 6106

BILL NO. 21-0108

TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

OF THE UNITED STATES

Regular Session

1996

To honor and commend Henry Ernst Rohlsen for his outstanding contributions as the first native born Virgin Islands aviator and to rename the "Alexander Hamilton Airport" the "Henry E. Rohlsen Airport"

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WHEREAS, Henry Ernst Rohlsen was born on St. John on October 6, 1916 to Charlotte Wilhelmina Cian and Carl Emil Rohlsen; and

WHEREAS, in 1932, Henry Rohlsen graduated from Christiansted High School, and furthered his education at the Graduate Air Force Technical School in Illinois, the Graduate Air Force Officers School in Florida, and the Graduate Air Force Flying School in Alabama; and

WHEREAS, from 1932 until 1941, Henry Rohlsen was employed as a gasoline attendant, assistant auto mechanic, clerk typist, assistant payroll manager, auditor collector, and secretary to the chief engineer for the Virgin Islands Corporation; and

WHEREAS, Henry Rohlsen served as the first black fighter pilot in the 99th squadron of the United States Air Corps; and

WHEREAS, from 1945 until 1948, Henry Rohlsen, as chairman and president of operations, organized and operated the National Airlines of Ecuador; and

WHEREAS, from 1951 until 1954, Henry Rohlsen served for two terms as a member of the Legislature of the Virgin Islands; and

WHEREAS, from 1949 until 1976, Henry Rohlsen, was an established and industrious entrepreneur who raised livestock, operated a car rental company, heavy equipment rental company, and worked as an automobile dealer; and

WHEREAS, from 1977 until 1979, as President of the Caribbean Development Company, Henry Rohlsen was acknowledged as the pioneer of the Frederiksted Cruise Port; and

WHEREAS, in 1969, Henry Rohlsen was selected by the Virgin Islands Legislature to testify before Congress for the formation of the Virgin Islands National Guard; and

WHEREAS, Henry Rohlsen's presentation before the Armed Services Commission was so impressive that the legislation establishing the National Guard's presence in the Virgin Islands was adopted; and

WHEREAS, from 1969 until 1973, Henry Rohlsen served as the Administrator for the Island of St. Croix; and

WHEREAS, an astute politician, Henry Rohlsen, portrayed his persuasive talents at the 1972 National Republican Convention as a delegate from the Virgin Islands. He spoke so convincingly at the convention of the need for a Virgin Islands Delegate to Congress that the idea was written into the Republican Party's campaign platform; and

WHEREAS, from 1972 until 1976, Henry Rohlsen was selected as the Republican National Committeeman for the Virgin Islands and also served as a member of the Second and Third Constitutional Conventions; and

WHEREAS, Henry Rohlsen, a conscientious Virgin Islander, served on various government boards and commissions such as: Chairman of the 8th and 9th Municipal council of St. Croix, Chairman of the Virgin Islands Selective Service Appeals Board, Chairman of the Legislative Power Committee, a member of the Home Rules Committee, the local Government Committee, the special Transportation Committee, a member of the Taxi Appeals Board, a member of the Banking Board, and a member of the Commission of Horse Racing; and

WHEREAS, Henry Rohlsen was married to Joyce E. Sampson Rohlsen, and have a daughter, Joyce Rohlsen and a son, Henry Rohlsen II; and

WHEREAS, throughout his lifetime, Henry Rohlsen, maintained a keen interest in local politics and was dedicated to improving the quality of life for all Virgin Islanders; Now, Therefore,

BE IT ENACTED by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:

SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature of the Virgin Islands, on behalf of the people of the Virgin Islands hereby posthumously honors and commends Henry Ernst Rohlsen for his outstanding contributions to the people of the Virgin Islands.

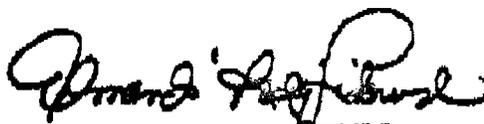
(b) The Alexander Hamilton Airport Located on St. Croix shall henceforth be renamed "The Henry E. Rohlsen Airport". The Virgin Islands Port Authority shall cause to be prepared a distinctive sign bearing the inscription "The Henry E. Rohlsen Airport" and shall conspicuously and permanently affix such sign at the entrance to the Alexander Hamilton Airport.

(c) A perma plaque copy of this act shall be prepared and presented to the family of Henry Ernst Rohlsen, by the President of the Legislature, or his designee, at an appropriate ceremony held for that purpose.

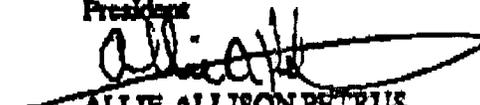
(d) A bronze plaque shall be erected within the facilities of the Alexander Hamilton Airport with the language of this act and the profile of Henry Ernst Rohlsen inscribed thereon.

Thus passed by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands on May 20, 1996.

Witness our Hands and Seal of the Legislature of the Virgin Islands this ^{5th} Day of June, A.D., 1996.



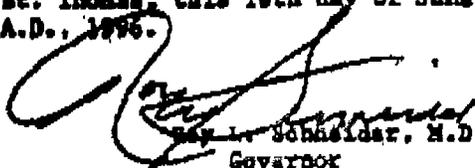
ALMANDO "ROCKY" LEURD
President



ALLIE-ALLISON PETRUS
Legislative Secretary

The above bill is hereby approved.

Witness my hand and the Seal of the Government of the United States Virgin Islands at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, this 18th day of June, A.D., 1996.


Roy L. Schneider, M.D.
Governor